IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

YOSHII et al Atty. Ref.: 1858-25

Serial No. **Unknown** Group:

Filed: January 29, 2001 Examiner:

For: SELF-CROSS-LINKING ALKYL CELLULOSE

DERIVATIVE, PRODUCTION PROCESS THEREFOR,

AND USE THEREOF

January 29, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 7, lines 2 and 3, delete "any one of claims 1 through 6" and insert -- claim 1 --.

Claim 8, lines 2 and 3, delete "any one of claims 1 through 7" and insert -- claim 1 --.

Claim 11, line 2, delete "any one of claims 8 through 10" and insert -- claim 8 --.

Claim 12, line 2, delete "9, or 11,".

Claim 13, line 4, delete "any one of claims 8 through 11" and insert -- claim 8 --.

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REMARKS

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format.

Respectfully submitted,

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